

AboutTown

Official Magazine of the City of Edina



AboutTown

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Editors: Jennifer Bennerotte

Contributing Writers: Krystal Caron, Jordan Gilgenbach,
Lauryn Grimes, David Katz, Frank Petrovic, Mia Vacanti
and Dawn Wills.

Photographer: Michael Braun

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About Town is published quarterly by the City of Edina.
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informed of news, activities and programs that are
important to them. We include articles of interest about our
residents and community history as well.

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July 2016

About Town Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key:  3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.					1	2
3 7 p.m., On the Air, Centennial Lakes Park.	4 Independence Day. City Hall closed. 10 a.m., Parade, Edina City Hall to West 50th Street and Halifax Avenue. Sunset, Fireworks, Rosland Park.	5 Noon, Comedy Juggling Show, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Vintage Piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.	6 7 p.m., Homeward Bound, Centennial Lakes Park.	7 Noon, Big, Epic Show, Centennial Lakes Park. Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Suffragette," Centennial Lakes Park. 	8	9
10 7 p.m., Northern Winds Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	11 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., River City Jazz, Centennial Lakes Park.	12 Noon, Puppet show, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall.	13 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Capri Big Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	14 Noon, Storytelling with Carol McCormick, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall. 	15	16 9 a.m., Walk with the Mayor, Arneson Acres Park. 9 a.m., Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Summer Education Series, Family Fishing, Shady Oak Beach, Minnetonka.
17 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	18 7 p.m., OLG Trio, Centennial Lakes Park.	19 Noon, Mary Hall's Show for Pipsqueaks, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	20 7 p.m., Star of the North Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	21 Noon, Paul Spring Family Show, Centennial Lakes Park. 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall. 	22	23
24 7 p.m., Minneapolis Police Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	25 7 p.m., Minneapolis Commodores, Centennial Lakes Park.	26 Noon, Teddy Bear Band, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	27 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Medalist Concert Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	28 Noon, Comedic Juggling and Dangerous Stunts, Centennial Lakes Park. 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina City Hall. 	29	30
31 7 p.m., Brio Brass, Centennial Lakes Park.						


August 2016

About Town Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key:  3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.	1 7 p.m., Amy & Adams, Centennial Lakes Park.	2 Noon, Rusty's Rocking Jamboree, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Vintage Piano, Centennial Lakes Park. Night to Unite	3 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Flute Cocktail, Centennial Lakes Park.	4 Noon, Will Hale & the Tadpole Parade, Centennial Lakes Park. Sunset, Movie in the Park, "The Avengers," Centennial Lakes Park. 	5	6
7 7 p.m., Prior Lake Windjammers, Centennial Lakes Park.	8 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall.	9 Primary Election Day. Noon, Brodini's Magical Comedy Show, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Sidewalk Café, Centennial Lakes Park.	10 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Lee Engele, Centennial Lakes Park.	11 Noon, The Bazillions, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall. 	12	13
14 6 p.m., Torchlight Concert, Centennial Lakes Park.	15 7 p.m., Twin Cities Show Chorus, Centennial Lakes Park.	16 Noon, Bob the Beachcomber, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Vintage Piano, Centennial Lakes Park.	17 7 p.m., Moonlight Serenaders, Centennial Lakes Park.	18 Noon, Kid Power with Rachael, Centennial Lakes Park. 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall. 	19	20 9 a.m., Walk with the Mayor, Yorktown Park.
21 7 p.m., The Medicine Show Company, Centennial Lakes Park.	22 7 p.m., Minnesota Mandolin Orchestra, Centennial Lakes Park.	23 Noon, Jack Pearson Stories and Songs, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	24 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Wild Honey, Centennial Lakes Park.	25 Noon, Alphabits, Centennial Lakes Park. 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina City Hall. 	26	27
28 7 p.m., Inver Hills Community Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	29 First day of school for Edina and Hopkins Public Schools students in Grades 1-12. 7 p.m., Zuhrah Flames Big Band, Centennial Lakes Park.	30 First day of school for Edina Public Schools students in ECSE and Kindergarten. 7 p.m., Vintage Piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.	31 7 p.m., Armenian Dance Ensemble, Centennial Lakes Park.			

About Town Calendar

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key:  3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.				1	2	3
						
4	5 Labor Day. Edina City Hall closed.	6 First day of school for Richfield Public Schools.	7 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	8 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.	9 5:30-7 p.m., Early Childhood Vehicle Fair, Harley Hopkins Family Center, Hopkins.	10 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fall into the Arts Festival, Centennial Lakes Park.
						
11 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Fall into the Arts Festival, Centennial Lakes Park. 7 p.m., Inver Hills Community Band, Edinborough Park.	12 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall.	13 7 p.m., Park Board, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Board, Edina City Hall.	14 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	15 Noon, Rachel Kroog, Edinborough Park.	16 4 p.m., Edina High School Homecoming Parade. 7 p.m., Homecoming Football Game, Kuhlman Field.	17 9 a.m., Walk with the Mayor, Braemar Golf Course. 2 p.m., Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Summer Education Series, Fall Colors Hike, Harrison Picnic Grounds, Bloomington.
						
18 7 p.m., Somewhat Dixieland Band, Edinborough Park.	19	20 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	21 7 p.m., Wine & Canvas Wednesday, Braemar Golf Course.	22 Noon, Brodini's Magical Comedy Show, Edinborough Park.	23 Deadline for Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Photo Calendar Contest.	24
						
25 1-5 p.m., Open Streets on 50th. 7 p.m., First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	26	27 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Honeywell Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	28 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	29 Noon, Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle and Jam, Edinborough Park.	30	
						

Summer Calendar Highlights

Other Dates To Remember

- July 12** 7 p.m., Sidewalk Café, Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 14** Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Jurassic World," Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 21** Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Wall-E," Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 26** 7 p.m., Sidewalk Café, Centennial Lakes Park.
- July 28** Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Tomorrowland," Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 8** 7 p.m., Hunker'd Down Blues Band, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 11** Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Minions," Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 16** 7-9 p.m., "Most Likely to Succeed" film and community conversation, South View Middle School auditorium and gym.
- Aug. 18** 6-7:15 p.m., Early Childhood Fun in the Sun Event, Harley Hopkins Family Center, Hopkins.
- Aug. 18** Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Inside Out," Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 23** 7 p.m., Sidewalk Café, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 25** Sunset, Movie in the Park, "Creed," Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 30** First day of school for kindergarteners in Hopkins Public Schools.
- Aug. 30** Noon, Wonderful World of Woody, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Aug. 30** 7 p.m., Vintage Piano with Jim Shannon, Centennial Lakes Park.
- Sept. 15** 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.
- Sept. 22** 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina City Hall.

Torchlight Concert

- What:** Enjoy 25-cent ice cream cones, 5-cent balloons, Ford Model Ts, tricks by a sleight-of-hand magician, an Italian organ grinder, a mechanical man, "penny-farthing" bicycles and more at the Centennial Lakes Torchlight Concert. More than 100 outdoor torches will burn behind the Hughes Pavilion and the park's special lighting will be highlighted. Fife & Drums will perform at 7:45 p.m. At 8 p.m., there will be open boating in the central pond for model yachts, organized by the Edina Model Yacht Club for Lighthouse Night. The First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band will perform in the Maetzold Amphitheater at 8:30 p.m. Fireworks will cap off the night.
- When:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14
- Where:** Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.
- Info:** 952-833-9580

Fall Into the Arts Festival

- What:** More than 240 talented artists from around the Midwest will display and sell their artwork at the annual Fall into the Arts Festival. The arts festival will also feature favorite fall foods and artist demonstrations. Proceeds will benefit the Edina Crime Prevention Fund, Edina Art Center and Centennial Lakes Park.
- When:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 11
- Where:** Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S.
- Info:** 952-903-5729

A Word From The Mayor

This month, many of our residents will start harvesting cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes, green beans, summer squash and lettuce from their gardens. Some of the best produce in Edina is being grown in our community garden at Yorktown Park, and it is State Fair, Blue Ribbon quality.

They have a lot of competition for blue ribbons at the State Fair, but I'm proudest of the gardeners at Yorktown Park.

Several years ago, Edina partnered with neighboring Bloomington and Richfield and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota to start a pilot program called *do.Town*. The project used high-level leadership to bring the community together, create discussion and make "the healthy choice the easy choice."

Through it, Edina added a community garden at Yorktown Park. The Yorktown Park Community Garden is located just north and east of the Southdale YMCA and Edina Fire Station No. 2 on York Avenue. There are 54 plots at the park, each measuring 10 feet by 10 feet or 10 feet by 15 feet. It's been a success since the beginning. This year, all of the plots were rented in January and an additional 18 gardeners put their names on a waiting list.

The community garden allows families and individuals without land of their own the opportunity to produce food, and provides a place for gardeners to share knowledge and skills. Yorktown Park had previously been underused. With the community gardens in place and gardeners present nearly every day from May through October, the park is cleaner and much more vibrant.

According to Minneapolis-based Gardening Matters, studies have shown that community gardeners and their children eat healthier, more nutrient-rich diets than do non-gardening families. People who garden (or who live with someone who gardens) tend to eat more fruits and vegetables on a daily basis. Increasing the consumption of organic local produce reduces exposure to chemical

fertilizers and pesticides. Local food can also be eaten fresh, without exposure to the preservatives that are typically added to produce that is shipped long distances.

Multiple studies have shown that natural areas such as community gardens also provide a variety of mental health benefits. Being in natural places fosters recovery from mental fatigue, improves outlook and life satisfaction, helps us to cope with and recover from stress, improves our ability to recover from illness and injury, restores concentration and improves productivity.

Besides being a great way to exercise, gardening motivates people to stay active longer than other activities. In one study, participants spent significantly more time gardening (225 minutes/week) than doing other leading forms of exercise, such as walking (160 minutes/week) and biking (170 minutes/week).

The Yorktown Community Garden was just one of the positive outcomes of the *do.town* project. The City also built a walking path at Braemar Arena, created a City wellness policy and added food-stamp capacity at the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market. The City also began collecting franchise fees to pay for non-motorized transportation improvements like bike lanes and sidewalks.

I also started a monthly "Walk with the Mayor," meeting with people at 9 a.m. the third Saturday of the month to talk about local issues. This month, we will walk at Arneson Acres Park on July 16. On Aug. 20, we will walk at Yorktown Park. Join me and see the flourishing community gardens and meet some of the best gardeners in the State of Minnesota!



James B. Hovland
Mayor

Edina's Relationship With 'The Crosstown' Is Storied, Unique

By David Katz, Contributing Writer

There is no denying that Minnesota Highway 62 is one of Edina's defining features. Intersecting with Minnesota Highway 100 close to the city's center, the Crosstown splits Edina into four more or less even quarters. Spanning a total of 12 miles – including the entire length of Edina – Highway 62 easily qualifies as one of the largest infrastructure improvements in the city's history. It is also one of the easiest to take for granted, even though many of us travel it on a near-daily basis.

'Crosstown' Proposal Gains Traction

Highway 62 as we know it today can be traced to talks dating back to 1940. Expressways by their very nature straddle multiple places, so it should come as no surprise that this particular story does not begin in Edina. It picks up instead with the age-old friction between Minneapolis and St. Paul.

By the late 1930s, South St. Paul and neighboring Newport had emerged as something of a regional mecca for the meat packing industry. Eastbound livestock shipments en route from Greater Minnesota and the Dakotas – coupled with an uptick in local commuter traffic – were causing significant congestion on Minneapolis roads simply not designed with this volume in mind.

Hoping to ease that gridlock, the Minneapolis Planning Commission drafted a report calling for the construction of an expressway skirting the southern edge of Minneapolis (and ideally in alignment with West 60th Street). Such a trunk road would greatly benefit freight



A draft of the Crosstown Highway route as proposed in early 1953. The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) created this rendering based on a map published in the *Minneapolis Tribune* on February 27, 1953.

traffic bound for packing plants and stockyards on the other side of the metro – while also providing relief to beleaguered intercity drivers from Minneapolis, Edina and Richfield.

While that original plan never came to fruition, the Planning Commission revisited the idea nine years later. In 1949, city Planning Engineer Herman Olson spearheaded a study that culminated in a detailed

recommendations report. It specifically proposed “a south crosstown highway on the city limits from Highway 100 to Highway 55 near Fort Snelling,” to quote from a summary of that 1949 document excerpted in a University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies report commissioned much later.

Olson’s team shifted the focus of the project south, to 62nd Street, in a nod to significant suburban development that had occurred over the course of that decade. Disruption of as few established businesses and residential neighborhoods as possible could only augur well for the project’s prospects. Olson also called out another important factor in his appeals to Hennepin County to greenlight the highway: improved access to and from Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). (MSP had added transnational flights and adopted its full and current name only a few years before.)

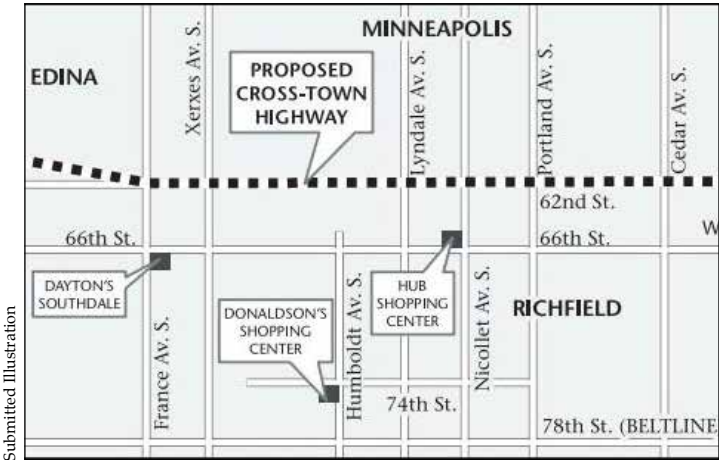
Hennepin County’s Board of Commissioners approved Highway 62 in 1956. Work did not begin immediately, however. County officials first pushed to have the project recognized as a state-aid highway, in hopes that federal funds could be used to cover half of the attendant costs. This desire to share or otherwise save costs on the Crosstown’s construction would crop up again.

Buy-in from local stakeholders also needed to be secured, of course, including the cities of Edina and Richfield. When, after some deliberation, the Edina City Council finally approved the plan in December 1957, the *Minneapolis Tribune* ran a headline trumpeting “Edina Clears Way for Crosstown Highway.” The paper assured readers – a bit prematurely, as hindsight makes clear –

that the City’s decision removed “the last real stumbling block” to the project’s success.

Anyone versed in the CliffsNotes of Edina history can guess one reason why the Crosstown proposal excited many residents. Southdale Center, the nation’s first fully enclosed, climate-controlled shopping mall, had opened its doors in October 1956. Perhaps inevitably, the addition of such a major regional attraction “generated even more traffic on neighborhood streets,” notes the State Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA). Highway 62 promised at least a partial tonic.

(continued on next page)



Schematic rendering of the Crosstown Commons design, prior to radical reconstruction efforts that began in 2007.



Freestanding piers stand like sentinels during the early phase of the massive Crosstown Commons reconstruction project.

Commonly Maligned 'Crosstown Commons'

Construction presented its fair share of challenges, but all pale in comparison to a last major bump in the road engineers discovered only after the highest volume stretch of expressway opened in 1966. This was the so-called "Crosstown Commons" area, a junction with Interstate Highway 35W intended to accommodate the interchange and pass-through needs of both highways. Critiqued even before groundbreaking, the Crosstown Commons is maligned today as one of the most ill-conceived infrastructure designs in the state's history.

Although the notorious bottleneck occurred about two miles east of Edina, it is worth exploring in a little more detail. After all, until fairly recently, the Crosstown Commons greatly impacted daily commutes for thousands of Edinans.

Politics and Freeways, the definitive history of the Twin Cities interstate system, candidly concedes that, some 60 years removed, "the historical record of the development of the now infamous Highway 62/I-35W commons section is missing some pieces."

In short, after studies and extensive deliberation, this novel approach emerged as one of only a few options acceptable to both Minneapolis and Richfield – the two municipalities directly affected by the build. It also appealed to County officials, since interweaving the Crosstown with I-35W meant that 90 percent of the cost for that portion of Highway 62 would be covered by the federal interstate program.

The Minnesota Highway Department, forerunner of today's MnDOT, secured final location clearance from the federal Bureau of Public Roads in January 1959. Work on the common section began shortly thereafter.

What Went Wrong?

While the shortcomings of the original Crosstown Commons design are painfully obvious in hindsight, County planners can only be faulted so far. At the time, law required new expressways be constructed to accommodate 1975 traffic projections. Unfortunately, the Bureau of Public Roads, despite "state-of-the-art

forecasting models,” significantly underestimated growth in many parts of the country.

Interstate miscalculations proved particularly acute. As a point of comparison, one year after its opening, more than 45,000 vehicles traveled the Crosstown Commons each day – as opposed to 20,000 on the other open stretches of Highway 62.

Compounding matters, this bumper-to-bumper traffic brought into sharp focus the divergent needs of the Crosstown and I-35W. Whereas interstates are meant to facilitate rapid travel through a place, county roads like Highway 62 must “provide access and interchange points at frequent intervals,” to quote a contemporary Highway Department document.

Conflicting motorist needs slowed traffic still further, and accident rates quickly skyrocketed past the state average. A September 1967 story in the *Minneapolis Tribune* branded the Commons as “Blood Alley.”

Members of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners gave voice to their road rage in no less sensational terms. The chairman, pointing a finger at the Highway Department, publically grumbled that “the whole thing has been unbelievably botched.” Another member purportedly accused Highway Commissioner L.P. Zimmerman of designing Highway 62 on a paper napkin.

(continued on next page)



Have you ever wondered how highways 62, 100 and 169 came to be identified by those numbers? For many years, an official Route Numbering Committee held responsibility for assigning numbers to Minnesota roadways. They took great care to label highways in a logical and consistent way across the state – while also taking into account local preferences. In simple cases, however, MnDOT sources note that committee decisions were often “essentially arbitrary.” The Route Numbering Committee no longer exists. Renumbering, in those rare cases where it is necessary, is overseen today by MnDOT traffic engineering officials.

Hennepin County also received its fair share of blame, including accusations of willfully overlooking potential issues in order to secure federal funding.

Addressing the underlying issues proved easier said than done. Calls to close several of the closely spaced Crosstown exits for the sake of traffic flow and safety – particularly the ramp granting access to Lyndale Avenue – met with strenuous opposition in Richfield, to give just one example.

Political gridlock of this sort helped ensure gridlock on the Crosstown Commons for decades to come, even after the State took control of Highway 62 from the County in the 1980s.

Minor modifications along the way notwithstanding, MnDOT would not break ground on the overhaul the Commons desperately needed until 2007. All told, it took nearly four years and \$288 million dollars (a price tag roughly equivalent to the amount spent on all metro road construction during an average year) to “untangle” Highway 62 from I-35W.

Highway 62 Helped Shape Edina

Ever since the 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act cleared a path for today’s Interstate Highway System and launched a national roadway building bonanza, reams of literature have been published about the impact highways have on the cityscapes they bisect. Most such studies are sobering, and focused on the detrimental side effects interstates and other expressways can bring to the communities they touch.

If the picture here in Edina is not exactly rosy, we can at least say that our relationship with the Crosstown is a little more nuanced. This is attributable, at least in part,



Photo by Joel Katz, MnDOT

Bridge construction at the west junction of the common section of Highway 62 and I-35W. Congestion at the infamous Crosstown Commons slowed the commutes of Edina drivers for decades.

to two dovetailing facts playing in our favor: Edina is a first-ring suburb – versus part of the urban core – and Highway 62 entered the picture before the city developed fully.

Edina’s residential Indian Hills Neighborhood, located just south of the Crosstown, offers one case in point. When the County started work on the project in 1959, several of this area’s largest developments had only recently been platted: Cherokee Hills along Gleason Road, the so-called McCauley Heights on Arrowhead Lake and Overholt Hills on nearby Indianhead Lake. The addition of the highway proved advantageous for the developers looking to draw people to this western segment of the City.

Highways serving as an impetus for population shifts is nothing new or unique. However, *From Footpaths to Freeways*, MnDOT’s comprehensive survey of Minnesota roads and highways, notes that the Crosstown must really be considered as its own special case. It calls out several irregularities illustrating how Highway 62 has woven itself into the fabric of Edina in a way that most such trunk roads simply do not.

For one thing, it represents one of just two instances where the State allowed a Minnesota highway to share its number with another unaffiliated highway in another part of the state. This second Highway 62, which is located about two hours southwest of Edina and connects the rural towns of Windom and Fulda, dates back to 1920.

When Hennepin County ceded control of the Crosstown in 1988, standard operating procedure called for the

renaming of the metro Highway 62 (perhaps to Highway 162). MnDOT declined to do so, citing the likelihood of confusion for and anger from Crosstown drivers in general – and residents of Richfield and Edina in particular.

A second indication of Highway 62’s special status is the simple fact that it has a popular nickname. Only a handful of Minnesota highways do, and none are as entrenched or widely known as “the Crosstown.” Even state agencies recognize it as a de facto alternative. Signage referring to it as such can be found on several streets adjacent to the highway.

While the Crosstown may not be Edina’s most prepossessing asset, the next time you are slowed by traffic, take that moment to reflect on the special character and history of this important thoroughfare.

Background information came from resources housed at the Edina Historical Society, the Minnesota Historical Society and the Minnesota Department of Transportation Library.

city of edina 4th of JULY p a r a d e



PRESENTED BY THE EDINA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Monday, July 4, 10:00 a.m.
From City Hall to 50th & France



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The Foundation wants to thank the above business sponsors as well as the community support of Famous Dave's, Bobby and Steve's Auto World, Rotary Club of Edina, Braemar Golf Course and Clubhouse, Edina Police Department and City of Edina.



Fireworks sponsored by Fairview Southdale Hospital

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It's Not Only Neighborly ... It's The Law

On-Street Parking

The Law: *Edina City Code Chapter 26, Article II, Sec. 26-41 (b) – Limited parking zones*

Six-hour parking. No person in charge of any vehicle shall park or permit the vehicle to stand upon any street or highway for more than six consecutive hours, unless otherwise designated on erected and installed signs. This subsection shall not apply to vehicles used by persons while such persons are present and actively engaged in services performed on the premises of others, such as painting, home construction or repair, installation of appliances, cleaning or fumigating.

What it means: Vehicles can be parked on Edina streets for no more than six consecutive hours. The ordinance does not apply to those who are actively engaged in services performed on nearby premises. However, any vehicle must be parked in such a way that emergency vehicles can pass along the roadway without delay. This ordinance is enforced upon complaint.

Clear View/Obstructions

The Law: *Edina City Code Chapter 26, Article VII – Clear View Zone*

Sec. 26-191 - Obstruction of zone

No owner of a corner lot shall install, set out, maintain or permit the installation or maintenance of any sign, hedge, fence, tree, shrub, natural growth, building, structure or

other obstruction or any part thereof within the clear view zone, except as provided in section 26-192.

Sec. 26-192 - Exceptions

The following obstructions are permitted in the clear view zone:

- (1) Obstructions less than 30 inches in height above the elevation of the street adjoining the clear view zone, as measured from the edge of the traveled portion of the street.
- (2) Trees pruned to a height of not less than six feet, as measured from the top of the adjoining curb. If there is not a curb, the measurement shall be from the edge of the traveled portion of the street.
- (3) Regulatory signs erected by the City, County or State.
- (4) Freestanding signs, if at least 10 feet of clearance is maintained between the ground and the bottom of the sign and the sign is supported by a single pylon of 12 inches or less in diameter.

What it means: “Clear view zone” means the triangular area formed by connecting three points: the point of intersection of the curblines extended of intersecting streets and a point on each curb line 30 feet from the aforementioned point of intersection. Owners of corner lots must keep their properties clear near intersections for the safety of street users.

– Compiled by Frank Petrovic

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Wooddale Avenue Bridge Designated A Historical Place



File Photo

The Wooddale Avenue bridge over Minnehaha Creek features limestone masonry headwalls, railings and wingwalls.

By Dawn Wills

The City received notification from the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office earlier this year that an unassuming bridge on Wooddale Avenue is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

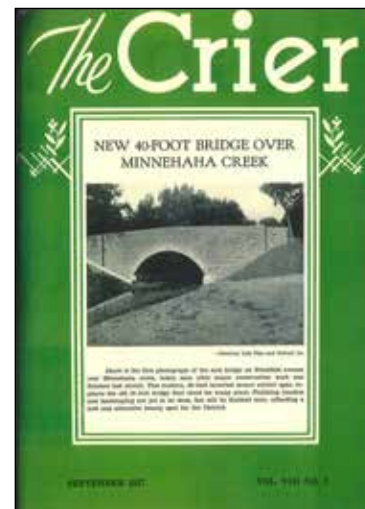
In March 1937, the Village of Edina turned its attention to replacing a deteriorated bridge on Wooddale Avenue over Minnehaha Creek. The existing crossing was a timber-stringer structure that was too narrow and light for the traffic demands of the site. The new bridge was to be a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, part of a federal relief program during the Great Depression to provide work to the unemployed.

"The Village of Edina provided the design, engineering and materials, while the federal government provided the labor," explained Joyce Repya, Senior Planner.

Denis Gardner, National Register Historian with the Minnesota Historical Society, said the federal relief program helped provide different types of jobs during the Great Depression. "It put unskilled people to work. Workers could literally bolt [the corrugated steel arches] together; it didn't take a lot of skill to bolt them together. But then you'd hire the stone mason – the highly skilled craftsman – who would put the facing of stone on it. So, you're putting to work those who are unskilled and those who are skilled."

Together, workers built the bridge using a combination of corrugated steel to form the arch structure. The masons then used Platteville Limestone to form the headwalls, railings and wingwalls.

The Wooddale Avenue bridge was built at the same time as St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, across the street at 4439 W. 50th St. Both were constructed using Platteville Limestone. The Village originally considered using boulders for the bridge's



File Photo

The Crier published the first photograph of the new bridge on Wooddale Avenue in September 1937.

construction, but altered the materials to complement the church.

“It’s designed in this rustic style, which fits very well because its setting is Minnehaha Creek. You don’t cross Minnehaha Creek with something ugly. You want to cross Minnehaha Creek with something that’s going to decorate the landscape, not take away from the landscape,” said Gardner.

“By recognizing the significance of your property and planning for its preservation, you are participating in the national movement which aims to preserve, for the benefit of future generations, our cultural heritage,” wrote Barbra Mitchell Howard, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for the Minnesota Historical Society in her Feb. 2 letter to the City of Edina declaring the Wooddale Avenue bridge’s placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

In May, the Edina City Council designated the Wooddale Avenue bridge a local Heritage Landmark. The City will be responsible for maintaining and preserving the bridge, and a plan of treatment to accompany the landmark designation will ensure that.

The plan of treatment will follow general guidelines to preserve the Wooddale Avenue bridge in its current place and existing form. The integrity and materials of the structure shall also be maintained.

“The City will make every effort to retain the historic bridge as a functional part of the modern transportation

system while preserving its distinguishing original qualities,” said Repya.

“The Wooddale Avenue bridge can last a long, long time,” Gardner said. “It just has to be maintained.”

For more information, contact Repya at 952-826-0462 or jrepya@EdinaMN.gov.



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Mayor Presents Commendations To Top Volunteers

Mayor Jim Hovland recently presented commendations for outstanding volunteerism to Elizabeth Anderson, Bob Gubrud, Richard Olson, Guled Said, Brian Olson, Edina Give and Go and the Interact Club of Edina.

Hovland presented the commendations at the City's Volunteer Recognition Reception in April.

"A French philosopher is known to have said, 'Only passions, great passions can elevate the soul to great things.' There are hundreds and hundreds of stories we could tell that show the passion of volunteers in Edina, elevating our community," Hovland said before presenting the awards at Braemar Golf Course. "This year, the winners of six awards tell those stories best."

Anderson and Said each received the Mayor's Youth Commendation, awarded to a young person who has demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of life in the community.

Anderson, a recent Edina High School graduate, was the first president of the Interact Club of Edina. She also volunteers her time with the Normandale Knitting Group, knitting hats for the homeless; Hennepin County Library, helping with the Reading Buddies program; and Edina Public Schools' Saturday School, tutoring.

Having just finished his junior year at Edina High School, Said was one of the founders of the school's Black Student Union and has led the charge in sharing the Civil Rights Research Experience as a student and student leader. He was nominated for the award by a teacher who described him as the most passionate student she has ever had

regarding issues of civil rights, race and America's racial legacy.

Gubrud received the Mayor's Outstanding Senior Commendation, primarily for his past work on the City's Energy & Environment Commission. While on the commission, Gubrud helped plan Home Energy Squad visits and environmental forums and advocated for the Community Solar Garden to be built on the roof of the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility. Gubrud has also volunteered countless hours to the Rotary Club of Edina and the Life Reimagined pilot program in Edina.

Richard Olson, who received the Mayor's Individual Service Commendation, chaired the Edina Veterans Memorial Committee at the time the memorial was dedicated last year at Utley Park. He was personally responsible for raising about 25 percent of the total funding for the project, leading the Committee through its final two years of work in finalizing the design and helping to oversee construction of the significant public work. The Veterans Memorial Committee was not the first committee Richard Olson led. He previously served as chair of the Edina 4th of July Parade Committee from 2009 to 2012.

The City's Public Works Director, Brian Olson received the Mayor's Community Involvement Commendation, awarded to a City employee for outstanding volunteer service to the community above and beyond his or her position. Brian Olson was nominated for the award because of the work he has done outside of his regular duties to assist Public Art Edina in installing sculptures for its annual outdoor exhibition.



Mayor Jim Hovland, center, presented Elizabeth Anderson, Abby Hofner of Edina Give and Go, Bob Gubrud, Brian Olson, Guled Said and Richard Olson with the 2016 Mayor's Commendations for volunteer service.

"Brian consistently helps us fulfill our mission of enhancing the beauty of public spaces in Edina," wrote Barbara La Valleur in her nomination. "He has come to the rescue himself, showing up to help lift a large sculpture onto a raised pod. When not available, he has sent colleagues to help, sometimes with a City vehicle capable of hoisting extra-heavy steel sculptures on the Edina Promenade or at Grandview Square."

Non-profit Edina Give and Go received the Mayor's Commendation for Service to Youth, awarded to an individual or organization making a positive impact in the lives of Edina youth. Edina Give and Go exists to help Edina students who are economically disadvantaged feel that they are part of the community. They provide

scholarships and supplies to put students on a level playing field in academics, the arts and athletics. Edina Give and Go supports Edina Public Schools programming, including Access, CREW, Summer is Go! Time, Summer Scholars, Last Mile, AP testing and Saturday School Music Lessons.

Newly chartered Interact Club of Edina received the Mayor's Service Club Commendation. The club was chartered at Edina High School in the fall of 2015 and boasted a membership of more than 50 students its first year. Affiliated with Rotary International, the Interact Club of Edina carries out at least two service projects each year. During the 2015-2016 school year, the club held a pencil drive to send school supplies to Africa and a "Skate to End Polio" at Braemar Arena to raise money for polio eradication.

At the Volunteer Recognition Reception, several organizations also honored their stand-out volunteers. Those receiving recognition were: Kitty O'Dea and Ray Meifert, Edina Arts & Culture Commission; Dayna Spencer, Edina Chamber of Commerce; Ann Sundberg, Edina Chorale; Maureen Millea Smith, Edina Community Foundation; Gubrud, Paul Thompson and Bill Sierks, Edina Energy & Environment Commission; Rosie Gubrud, Edina Federated Women's Club; Lisa Nelson, Edina Garden Council; Teri Velner, Edina Give and Go; Bruce Carlson, Edina Historical Society; Lauren Morse-Wendt, Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission; Tony Kanwar, Edina Lions Club; Peter Kelley, Edina Morningside Rotary Club; Police Explorers Post 925, Edina Police Department; Ruchita Jain, Edina Public

(continued on next page)

Schools and Edina Community Education; Angella McGarvey, Edina Soccer Association; Marlene Fischer, Edina Women's Club; Joe Novak, Fairview Southdale Hospital; Jenner Stevens, Morningside Women's Club; Katie Bredesen, N.C. Little Memorial Hospice; Marty Kupper, Rotary Club of Edina; and Katie Schletty, Southdale YMCA.

For more information on the Mayor's Commendations, contact the City's Administration Department, 952-826-0403.

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Braemar To Hold Grand Opening For Practice Facilities In August

By Mia Vacanti

Braemar Golf Course opened its new-and-improved driving range in mid-April and will open and hold a grand opening of the new Academy 9 Par 3 course in early August.

The improved range is over 300 yards long and accommodates up to 68 golfers at a time. The new turf teeing area is approximately 114,000 square feet and new target greens have been added. A new irrigation system has improved turf conditions and should reduce maintenance time and expense. The renovated range is almost 100 yards longer than the old range and the size of the tee area has almost tripled. Golfers will hit from mats until August to allow for turf growth.

"I am so impressed. I've never seen a range so well picked up, clean and attended to – they're Johnny-on-the-spot – every one of them," said Edina resident Lane Holkenson of the Braemar staff maintaining the new driving range. "I brought my family there to hit balls and every one of them, including my children, commented on how great it was."

"The updated driving range is the best practice facility in the Twin Cities," said Braemar Golf Course Manager Joe Abood. "The new teeing surface is three times the size of the old one, which will make for consistent turf conditions throughout the season. It has also been extended in length to accommodate different skill levels, and six target greens were added to maximize target practice."



Members of the Edina High School golf team were the first to use the new driving range when it opened in April.

Construction on the new Academy 9 Par 3 course was completed in the fall of 2015 and was seeded to begin the grass grow-in phase before the ground froze for the winter. The turf is continuing to grow in this spring and should be suitable for play by the end of July or early August.

"The Academy 9 Par 3 course is nine holes that are set up for golfers of all different abilities," said Abood. "We added water features on the course that will provide water storage in the area."

All of the construction projects are being completed in order to improve the playing conditions of the course

and position it as one of the best municipal courses in the state. The present golf course features, including the greens, fairways and bunkers, have exceeded their projected lifespan and are in need of updates.

In the fall, a renovation of Braemar's 27 holes of regulation golf will begin.

"The 18-hole golf course will be designed to where bunkers, hazards, trees and more will challenge the better golfer and not penalize the average golfer," Abood explained.

In addition, a new irrigation system will be installed on the golf course.

"The present system is in disrepair," he said. "The new system will give us better coverage and be more efficient and better for the environment."

The 27 holes that make up the 18-hole course and Clunie 9 will remain open as usual for the 2016 season. It will close in the fall as construction begins to convert it into a new 18-hole course.

The Braemar Golf Course staff is looking forward to seeing the master plan for the facility come to life in the next year or so.

"It has been exciting to see the master plan come along and we hope it continues to go as planned," said Abood.

Dedicated Braemar golfers also look forward to the improved course.

"All of the women's and men's leagues have been able to enjoy a full season in 2016," said Edina resident and Women's League member Pacy Erck. "I encourage everyone to get out and play early in the summer so that they're freshened up by the time the new Par 3 course opens in August. We're excited to use the new course."

In addition to the updated course and numerous leagues that Braemar Golf Course offers, Erck also enjoys spending time at the clubhouse when she's not golfing.

"I have found it exciting to come out here for lunch [at The Tin Fish] and play bridge with my friends," Erck said. "It's an inviting environment with great meals and I enjoy seeing people come in."

For more information, contact Abood at 952-903-5754 or jabood@EdinaMN.gov.

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Community Solar Garden To Be Built In Edina

By Krystal Caron

Edina will get a little bit greener later this year when Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) begins the installation of new community solar panels on the roof of the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility at 7450 Metro Blvd.

The City Council agreed to lease the roof space on the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility for a community solar garden after the Energy & Environment Commission (EEC) made the recommendation in the fall of 2015. CEF will lease the roof space from the City for 25 years. Installation is expected to begin in late 2016, with completion in the spring of 2017.

“The EEC recommended the City Council consider leasing the roof of the Public Works building for a private developer to build a community solar garden,” said Environmental Engineer Ross Bintner. “The Council agreed and after accepting several proposals, the City chose CEF.”

“I think it’s good for the City to be supporting a green development and enabling our citizens the chance to support solar development and I think this does that. We certainly can embrace our support for this initiative,” said Edina City Council Member Bob Stewart at the Dec. 15, 2015 City Council meeting when the approval was given.

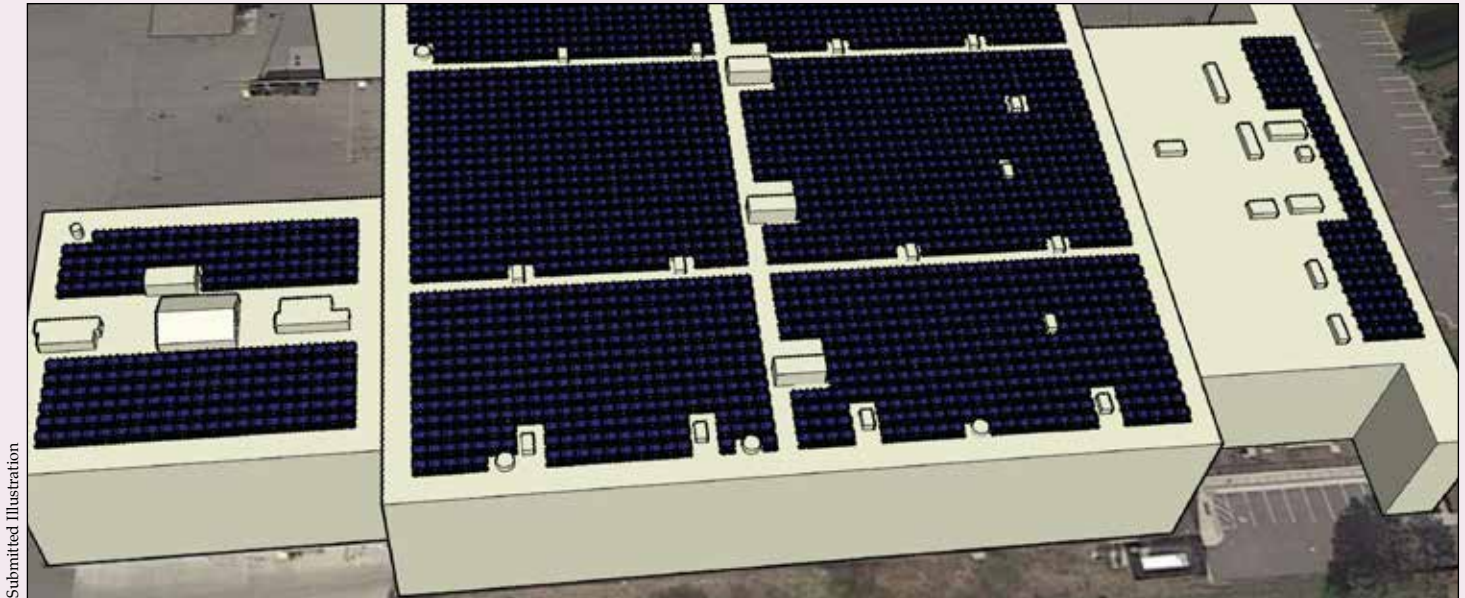
Community solar gardens offer members of a community a chance to purchase some of their electricity from a solar array and allow residents to reduce their monthly energy costs and lock in stable, long-term electricity rates. Subscriptions to Edina’s solar garden are open for

all Edina residents who are Xcel Energy customers. Residents have the opportunity to buy up to 120 percent of their electricity use from the Edina solar array. Subscribers may want to purchase more than 100 percent to cover possible energy use fluctuations or to allow for the small amount of degeneration as the solar panels age.

A typical home uses around 800 kWh of electricity per month, which totals 9,600 kWh/year or 8 kW. Xcel will deliver energy from the CEF array and credit subscribers’ bills for the energy it produces. Subscribers will likely save about 5 percent in the early years, but could save as much as 22 percent per year after several years.

CEF is a local, member-owned energy cooperative. It works to make solar affordable by building large solar arrays on sunny rooftops or open areas throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro. CEF is a member of the Just Community Solar Coalition, along with Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light and Renewable NRG Partners. Its goals are to ensure that community solar gardens are accessible to low-income households; create local, sustainable jobs; protect the environment; and provide a new avenue for how energy is created and used.

“We applaud Edina for showing leadership and moving into the community solar arena. We’re in the early stages and Edina is showing tremendous leadership in moving into this community solar field and allowing the residents of Edina the chance to have access to solar energy,” said Just Community Solar Coalition Member Megan O’Hara. “In addition to the solar array in Edina, we have one under way in North Minneapolis and a couple of other groups organizing in St. Paul and the east metro.



A 618kW solar garden is expected to be installed on the roof of the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility by the spring of 2017.

Edina's solar garden is the first one to be located on a city facility."

Energy produced by the Edina solar garden will generate enough power for about 80-100 homes when it comes online next year, but subscribers have already begun signing up. The Just Community Solar Coalition has already started working with about 25 Edina residents, so the Coalition encourages residents to sign up soon. For this array, all subscriptions are pay-as-you-go. Subscribers will pay monthly for the amount of kWh

generated by their portion of the array; the same kWh for which they receive bill credits from Xcel Energy. Edina residents will have priority to subscribe through October, and then subscriptions will be open to Edina businesses and eventually to any interested eligible subscriber in the service area.

To subscribe, visit cooperativeenergyfutures.com. For more information, contact O'Hara at megan@mnipl.org or 612-599-7625.

Morse-Wendt Receives Tom Oye Award

By Krystal Caron

Edina resident Lauren Morse-Wendt recently received the 2016 Tom Oye Human Rights Award for her steadfast work helping to develop new opportunities for homeless young adults and provide more access to affordable housing.

“Lauren Morse-Wendt has led a collaborative campaign to create the first apartment building for homeless young adults in the west metro. Her dedication has brought Edina together to take pride in caring for all young people, providing an opportunity for everyone to thrive and embracing an inclusive community vision,” explained nominator Jackie Sullivan.

Each year, the Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission (HRRC) awards a member of the community whose good work promotes human relations and advances human rights with the Tom Oye Human Rights Award. The award was established in recognition of the late Tom Oye who was a Nisei soldier in World War II, a second-generation Japanese American who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In 2003, Oye received the Prize for Humanity by the Immortal Chaplains Foundation. He helped found the HRRC in 1970 and served on it for more than 30 years. Because of all of his contributions, the HRRC now annually bestows the award in his name.

“There were a few reasons Lauren was selected for this award. The group felt that she brought attention to an issue that had previously not been recognized in the community – not just homelessness, but access to

affordable housing. She was also selected for her work convening an interfaith community to address homelessness in Edina,” said HRRC Vice-Chair Sarah Rinn. “She led a coordinated community effort to really rally support for the project, sometimes in the face of adversity. Lauren’s work really reflected the nature of the Tom Oye Award to educate and end discrimination in the Community.”

Morse-Wendt has exemplified these qualities in her work, leading a successful campaign to develop housing opportunities in Edina for homeless young adults. Construction is expected to begin this summer on 66 West, a new housing opportunity for young adults in the southwest metro who have experienced homelessness. Morse-Wendt is a member of the 66 West Taskforce and helped to drive the project forward.

“I accept this award on behalf of the entire 66 West Housing Taskforce. They have donated thousands of hours over the past five years to ensuring that homeless youth and young adults in our community have a stable and safe place to live,” said Morse-Wendt when she accepted the award at the April 20 Volunteer Recognition Reception. “If I have learned anything over these five



Submitted Photo

**Lauren Morse-Wendt
was presented the 2016
Tom Oye Award in April.**

years, it is that there is incredible public support and will for improving the number of affordable housing units in our community.”

“Lauren provided the passion, leadership and endless positive energy to bring many congregations together to make this happen and inspire people to be a part of this amazing project,” said Anne Mavity, Director of New Projects for Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, the developer of 66 West. “Lauren has also helped nurture and lift up the leadership potential that other people have and don’t often tap into. The legacy of her work on this project is that there are so many people that are inspired to be a part of this.”



Submitted Photo

Lauren Morse-Wendt was recently named the 2016 Tom Oye Human Rights Award recipient. She helped lead the 66 West Taskforce, pictured here, in championing the development of a new apartment building in Edina for homeless young adults.

According to Sullivan, Morse-Wendt has been a tireless and committed champion for this cause. She has presented at adult forums, hosted interfaith breakfasts, collected postcards, supported benefit concerts and staged rallies. Today, nine other churches formally participate, representing Lutheran, Congregational, Methodist, Episcopal and Catholic traditions.

“She’s done an amazing job of keeping us on task and leading the efforts through the approval process. She seems to embody the legacy of human dignity and compassion and understanding the need of the community,” said Sullivan. “In Lauren’s words, ‘I believe in home because every child of God has the right to shelter, to safety and to community. Home is central to all of those.’”

In the process of organizing 66 West, Morse-Wendt helped shed light on the issue of suburban youth homelessness and advanced a conversation about Edina’s community vision.

“The results have been inspiring. There is growing awareness of the stories of Edina youth who have no home to return to when the high school day ends or Southdale Library closes,” said Sullivan. “Lauren has stewarded a community-driven process to affirm our inclusive values and create not only homes for homeless youth in Edina, but systemic changes for justice.”

Individuals who live, study or work in Edina, or who make significant contributions to Edina, are eligible for the Tom Oye Human Rights Award. Nominees are

(continued on next page)

evaluated based on their efforts to foster respect and dignity for others, model courage and/or compassion in the advancement of human rights, and demonstrate leadership by example for improving human relations or advancing human rights.

Rinn encourages residents to submit nominations for the 2017 Tom Oye Award. The call for nominations will open in the fall.

"To paraphrase Eleanor Roosevelt, 'Human rights occur in the smallest of spaces,'" said Rinn. "What Lauren Morse-Wendt did was on a large scale, but if human rights don't occur in the smallest of spaces, then they don't occur anywhere – and that's what the award is all about."

For more information on the award, contact HRRC Staff Liaison MJ Lamon at 952-826-0360 or MLamon@EdinaMN.gov.



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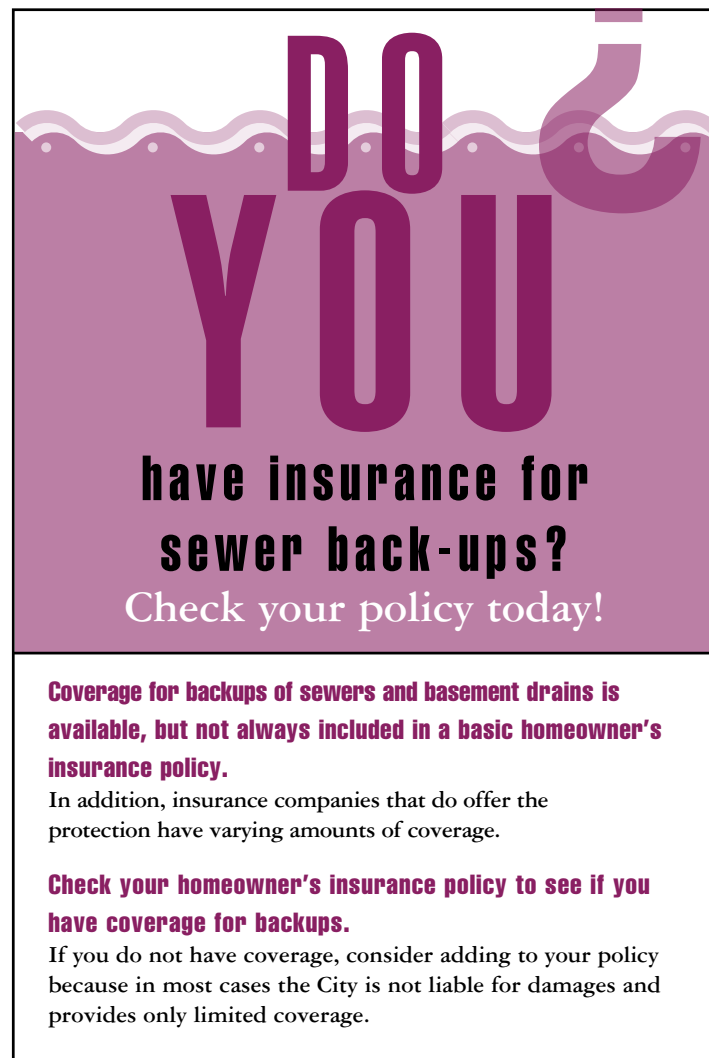
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Edina Resident Chairs Hopkins School Board

By **Laurn Grimes**

Edina resident Wendy Donovan's value of education goes far beyond general support of local schools. She's been a member of the Hopkins School Board for more than eight years and assumed the role of School Board Chair in January.

Donovan first ran for the Hopkins School Board in 2007 after the Board made the decision to close the elementary school her children attended due to budget reasons. Disappointed in the lack of transparency offered by the Board at the time, she decided to do as the old saying goes, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

After being challenged by a previous Board member in the situation of her children's elementary school closing, Donovan thought running for the School Board would be a perfect way to redefine herself. "You can complain or be part of a solution," said Donovan. "So, I decided to be part of the solution."

Donovan, a former self-employed, stay-at-home mom of three children, has always enjoyed keeping busy around the community. "I like to work," she said. In addition to her role on the Hopkins School Board, Donovan is also a member of the Hopkins Elks – a chapter of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the nation.

"Wendy has been on the School Board for a long time, so she brings a lot of history to the position," said Hopkins

Public Schools Superintendent John Schultz. "She comes from a position of strong community leadership." One of seven Board members elected at large, Donovan is the only Board member who lives in Edina.

The School Board is primarily responsible for the inner workings and policy behind the scenes rather than direct contact with faculty and students, but Donovan says she enjoys the work. "I really enjoy the policy work and in my eight years, we've really changed the process of how we do things in our district," she said. "We've made it all very transparent."

As School Board Chair, Donovan's responsibilities are primarily organizational and include planning School Board meetings, finalizing meeting agendas with Superintendent Schultz and going over the Board packets. Donovan stressed that her voice as Chair doesn't hold more value – she's just "one of seven voices" – so her duties are about the planning.

Looking at what's best for all kids, especially in our ever-changing world, energizes Donovan. "[It] makes me look outside myself and into the future and how we can transform education without shutting it down." She's specifically proud of the school district's programs and diversity.

According to Donovan, the Board is always looking for ways to do things more efficiently and keep kids engaged. "We try to stay in the kids' world," she said.



Edina resident Wendy Donovan assumed the position of Chair for the Hopkins School Board in January.

Schultz also noted that Donovan’s perspective as a 23-year resident of Edina brings extra value because there are many students who live in Edina and attend Hopkins schools. “The School Board’s focus is on children and learning, but it goes beyond that and extends to building partnerships with the broader community.”

Hopkins School District has a collaborative with Edina Public Schools – Hopdina – where the two districts work together to share best practices, ideas on staff development and more. “We’re looking at all the ways we can share, because it’s better for the kids,” Donovan noted.

Donovan will hold the position of Board Chair for one year. Donovan could be re-elected to the position of chair when her year is completed. Her current term as a School Board Member ends in 2019.

For more information on the Hopkins School Board, visit hopkinsschools.org

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Pickleball Courts Under Construction At Rosland Park

By Mia Vacanti

A pair of Edina cousins is adding to the public amenities available in Edina, all while honoring their late fathers.

Bruce and Paul Mooty have donated money for the construction of pickleball courts at Rosland Park, 4300 W. 66th St.

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. The sport shares the dimensions and layout of a badminton court and a net and rules similar to tennis, with a few modifications.

Construction on the five-court complex, which will be located next to the tennis courts at Rosland Park, began May 9 and is projected to be completed the first week of July.

Bruce initially came up with the idea to donate pickleball courts to Edina to honor his late father, John Mooty, and uncle, Melvin Mooty, who raised their families in Edina. He shared the idea with his cousin, Paul, who agreed that pickleball courts would be a great way to honor their fathers. As soon as their other siblings and the rest of the family were on board, they brought their idea to the City.

"I remember growing up and going to the Edina parks with the family, riding our bikes and playing tennis all the time," said Paul. "It was a large part of my childhood and where a lot of my memories were made."

"Growing up, we did a lot of things as a family. One of those things was going to the parks in Edina and playing tennis," Bruce said. "Both my father and my uncle had homes growing up that were near Rosland Park and I think it's a great location [for the pickleball courts] because that park has so many other activities to offer. You've got the pool there, a disc golf course, a playground and picnic area, walking trails, a baseball field and tennis courts. The pickleball courts will add to this park, and it's centrally located with great access."

The Mootys came to City Manager Scott Neal, Mayor Jim Hovland and Parks & Recreation Director Ann Kattreh with the initial concept in February 2015. After fine-tuning the details and presenting the idea to and receiving approval from the City Council, a contractor was hired in early 2016 and the construction dates were set.

"These are the first dedicated pickleball courts in Edina and I'm very excited," said Kattreh, explaining that the Parks & Recreation Department had previously taped off dimensions of a pickleball court on the tennis courts at Garden Park for pickleball players to use. "Pickleball is a sport that people of all ages and abilities can play and that's one of the things that makes it great. It's definitely an up-and-coming sport and I think it'll be a fantastic addition to an already prominent park."

"It's not a game that requires a lot of physical activity," said Edina resident Don Buenz. "I'm 84 years old and I enjoy playing. It's a sport that you can learn very quickly and it really just requires a little hand-eye coordination."

The size of the court is significantly smaller [than a tennis court]. It's a very fun, social game."

The five courts will be the best quality courts possible, complete with wind screens around the fences.

"We're so fortunate to have such a great park system in Edina and so many nice parks to use for various activities," said Paul. "Family is so important to us and it's a nice memory to have. I like knowing that thousands of people [and their families] will be able to use these courts for free, for decades to come."



Photo by Mia Vacanti

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new pickleball courts was held May 10.

Bruce echoed his comments. "Family has been a core value for the Mootys forever and it started with our grandparents and continued on down. We had the first pickleball courts [in Edina, as kids] taped off in our driveway," said Bruce. "My uncle and father played the sport, so they would be happy to see these courts at an Edina park."

For more information, contact the Parks & Recreation Department, 952-826-0367.



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‘Slapshot’ To Call Braemar Arena Home

By Jordan Gilgenbach

Following several months of donations and crowdfunding, a hockey sculpture called “Slapshot” has found its permanent home at Braemar Arena.

“Slapshot,” a four-foot, 300-pound steel sculpture, was crafted by artist and Minnesota native Judd Nelson and depicts a hockey player about to take a slapshot. The sculpture was on display on the Edina Promenade in 2013 as part of the annual outdoor public art exhibition. It was on loan and later displayed at Braemar Arena during fundraising efforts.



Photo by Jordan Gilgenbach

Following a community fundraising effort, the sculpture “Slapshot” will be added to the City’s permanent public art collection.

Nelson has a long history in hockey. Not only did he watch his kids play hockey, he played it himself. Additionally, Nelson’s father, Hubert “Hub” Nelson, was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1978, having played for the Minneapolis Millers, Oklahoma City Warriors and St. Louis Flyers.

“I have been around hockey and rinks and players for so long,” Nelson said of his desire to depict hockey through his art. “I have hockey in my blood.”

The City used donations totaling about \$7,500 to purchase the sculpture as part of its permanent public art collection. “Slapshot” will be permanently displayed in the main lobby of Braemar Arena at 7501 Ikola Way.

“This is really exciting, to blend art and athletics, and to have done so with so much community support,” said Susie Miller, General Manager of Braemar Arena. “It’s great to have ‘Slapshot’ help represent Edina’s long and successful hockey legacy for years to come.”

“City residents and especially our hockey families have demonstrated the importance of public art in the purchase of ‘Slapshot,’” said City Council Member Ann Swenson, who led the fundraising efforts.

Several methods were used to raise money. A crowdfunding site on GoFundMe was created so anyone could donate online. In addition, some people made in-person donations and a corporate matching donation from Tradition Mortgage also helped make the goal.

“Rather than look for one or two large donors like we did for ‘Spaulding,’ we wanted to make this fundraising effort available to everyone,” Swenson said. “That really helps give people a sense of ownership.” This was the first time the City used crowdfunding to raise money for public art.

“It’s been fun to see kids interact with ‘Slapshot’ in our lobby while it was on loan to us during fundraising,” Miller said. “Now, to be able to see future generations

have the same interaction and pride is going to be very rewarding.”

“... A nice addition to Braemar Arena, home of great memories for our family,” wrote one of the donors. “I envision many, many photos of Mites and this sculpture living on in family digital libraries everywhere.”

For more information on the placement of “Slapshot,” contact Miller at 952-833-9502. For more information on public art, visit EdinaPublicArt.org.

Home Rehab Funds For Qualified Edina Home Owners



You may qualify for up to \$30,000 to make repairs or necessary improvements to your Edina home through **Hennepin County Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program**. This program provides deferred repayment funds on a first-come-first-served basis to people who can show financial need. If you would like to receive information, income guidelines, qualification summaries, interest rates, and applications, please call Jim Graham at Hennepin County Housing, Community Works and Transit, 612-348-2235. Dozens of Edina residents have protected the value of their homes by using this program. If your primary residence is located in Edina and needs repair or structural improvements, please give Jim a call.



CITY OF EDINA
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Mike Seeger Named Officer Of The Year

By Dawn Wills

Police Officer Mike Seeger's interest in law enforcement was sparked by the Junior Police program taught in his classroom as a boy. The program also sparked his desire to be involved in the community.

Seeger joined the Edina Police Department in the fall of 2000. He has been the coordinator of the same Junior Police program that he remembers from his childhood for 15 years, touching the lives of over 600 children per year. Seeger is continuing what his father, Bob Seeger, and Dave Wendt started over 20 years ago through the Edina Morningside Rotary Foundation.

The junior Seeger worked closely with the Edina Morningside Rotary Foundation over the years to continually build the Junior Police program. Along with City Council Member Mary Brindle, he has recreated the books used in the program.

"The program was fading. After we revamped it, we are now in all the public and private schools in Edina," said Seeger. "Mary has been my liaison for the Junior Police program for years and she's been a mentor to me."

For his work as a Police Officer and dedication to the community, Seeger was named the 2015 Mike Siitari Officer of the Year by the Edina Crime Prevention Fund. The award recognizes an Edina Police Officer each year who has gone above and beyond the call of duty.



File Photo

Edina Police Officer Mike Seeger has been named the 2015 Mike Siitari Officer of the Year by the Edina Crime Prevention Fund.

"Mike is very deserving of this award," said Jon Barnett, President of the Edina Crime Prevention Fund. "Mike has been doing the Junior Police program consistently for so long. He's a civic-minded guy and the kind of guy you can really be proud to have as a police officer."

Brindle nominated Seeger for the award, writing, "Mike is the unique combination of a consummate professional, with his wry sense of humor, who seeks creative ways to serve the community and solve problems. ... Mike creatively leads the Edina Junior Police program, fostering good public relations with our young people, teaching them how to be safe and smart."

The Junior Police program is for second- and third-grade classes. Officers visit each class twice. During the first visit, officers talk to the kids and hand out the program's workbook. In the second visit, officers go through the workbook and answer any questions the students might have. Every year, the Junior Police program reaches 600 to 700 students in all the public and private schools in Edina – eight schools in total.

"We cover safety topics and have just introduced cyber safety," Seeger said. "This year, we are on track to give out 625 badges. I'm a graduate of the Junior Police program and still have my book."

"I'm honored and humbled by this award," Seeger said. "And it's nice that this Junior Police program is also getting recognition, too."

Seeger has been involved with programs other than Junior Police. He worked alongside Edina Police K-9 Diesel for nine years and he is still active in the U.S. Police Canine Association. Seeger has also served as a volunteer firefighter for the past 10 years. He is raising his family in Edina.

"Mike is very involved in the community as he develops positive relationships with residents through involvement with the K-9 program, Junior Police, Morningside Rotary and Boy Scouts of America," said Edina Police Chief David Nelson. "These ongoing connections with our youth have a far-reaching impact."

"As Chief, I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize Mike and award him the fifth-annual Mike Siitari Officer of the Year Award."

Nominations for the Mike Siitari Officer of the Year award come from the public and City employees. The Edina Crime Prevention Fund, a community partner for more than 40 years, selects the winner after receiving and reviewing nominations. The Officer of the Year Award is named after Mike Siitari, who served as Police Chief from 1999 to 2009 during his 31-year tenure with the Edina Police Department.

For more information about the Officer of the Year Award, contact the Edina Police Department at 952-826-1610.

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Your District, Your Lens

By Lauryn Grimes

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District challenges residents to submit their photos of Nine Mile Creek and other scenery within the watershed district for its calendar.

The Watershed District seeks pictures of Nine Mile Creek itself, or anything within the district, including lakes, parks, wildlife, plants and outdoor recreation. Because the watershed district encompasses approximately 50 square miles in surface area around Nine Mile Creek, Gael Zembal, Education and Outreach Specialist for the District, expects to receive many different types of photos.

According to Education and Outreach Program Manager Erica Sniegowski, watershed districts are required to produce and distribute an annual communication. "The Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar is a unique way for the District to meet this requirement. The photo contest engages residents to explore Nine Mile Creek and other natural resources of the District," she said. "The photographers take pictures of what is important to them in the watershed, raising awareness about the water and natural resources for those that view the calendar."

Zembal says the photo contest brings many benefits to the District and the community at large. "It's really nice to get people out using the resources and ... [experiencing] the beauty of the district," she said. "The benefit for residents is that they see different portions of the district they may have not seen before or see them in a new way."

Photo by Elizabeth Daughton, courtesy of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District



Painted turtles at Bredesen Park "posed" for this vibrant photo that was featured in the 2016 Nine Mile Creek Watershed District photo calendar.

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District staff, the Board of Managers and Citizens Advisory Committee will choose approximately 25 photos that will be published in the 2017 Nine Mile Creek Photo Calendar. The District prints 2,000 copies of the calendar and distributes them for free to those on their mailing list and at events. Calendars will also be available for pick up at libraries within the district, as well as the Bloomington, Richfield, Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and Eden Prairie city halls. Photographers whose photos are chosen to appear in the calendar will receive at least one copy of the publication to share with their friends and family.

"I go to Bredesen Park almost every day – it's like nature paradise," said Elizabeth Daughton, a long-time resident of Edina and former winner of the photo contest. "[I participate in the contest because] I like people to see my work and to see how beautiful it is right here in an urban environment."

Both Zembal and Sniegowski said they hope people will be motivated to get out and experience the district for themselves after seeing photos in the calendar. "[We hope] people who receive the calendar will be inspired to get outside and visit some of the places they see in the photos," said Sniegowski.

"This is a city and we have this jewel of a nature center right here – it's just amazing," Daughton noted. "It's an oasis."

Photos must be of the district, but can be submitted by anyone – amateur or professional, young or old – but not more than 15 photos per photographer will be accepted. Zembal noted that the District would love to receive photos from all seasons, not just spring and summer.

Entrants can upload their photos at cwok.me/cu/Photos. Deadline for entries is Sept. 23. For more information, rules, photo release and entry form, visit ninemilecreek.org or contact Sniegowski at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org.

Photo by Ryan Gottsleben, courtesy of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District



From animals to majestic scenery, even lily pads are among the beautiful photos featured in Nine Mile Creek's annual photo calendar.

VEAP Helps Area Students

By Krystal Caron

Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP) is an organization committed to providing a range of services to help low-income people meet immediate needs and reach their long-term goal of stability. That mission includes assisting students and local youth in need. Of the households served by VEAP, 81 percent have incomes of less than \$1,600 per month or \$19,200 annually, and 57 percent have children under the age of 18. During the summer months, the Summer Youth Food and Back to School programs focus on youth in need.

Every summer, VEAP holds an annual Summer Youth Food Program that benefits school-aged children who receive free and reduced-priced breakfast and lunch programs through the schools during the school year. The Summer Youth Food Program provides groceries for breakfast and lunch through the summer months when school is not in session. Bags are filled with items such as peanut butter, whole grain cereals, no-sugar-added fruit cups, granola bars, 100 percent fruit juice and macaroni and cheese. In addition, thanks to the expanded processing area and larger coolers in its new building, VEAP is able to provide more fresh fruits and vegetables.

When students skip breakfast, they arrive at school exhausted and anxious. They are often disruptive in the classroom – interrupting lessons, acting out and making it difficult for anyone in the classroom to learn. When kids are overwhelmed by how hungry they are, the chance for them to excel in the classroom is drastically reduced.

For some students in the community, the only meals they eat each day are the ones they receive in school. That makes the summer months particularly challenging. VEAP's goal for the summer of 2016 is to provide groceries to 900 children on a weekly basis.

For a family with three school-aged children who are on the free and reduced-priced program at school, summer means providing an additional 30 meals per week. This can be a significant financial burden for many low-income families. In Bloomington and Richfield public schools, more than half of the students are eligible for free and reduced-priced breakfast and lunch programs and in Edina nearly 9 percent of public school students participate in the program.

In addition to the Summer Youth Food Program, VEAP also helps students in need as they head back to school in the fall. Equipping children with school supplies is the first step in ensuring that every child receives an equal opportunity for a good education. The VEAP Back to School program holds a school supply drive beginning in mid-July to provide students with necessary school supplies as they head back to class in the summer. Last year, the program supported 3,142 students and VEAP hopes to help even more this year.

"VEAP's Back to School Program will provide backpacks with school supplies to approximately 3,350 youth this summer," said VEAP Advancement Director Patty Schulz. "Backpacks are grade appropriate and contain notebooks, folders, pencils and pens, markers, crayons and rulers.

Like all VEAP programs, youth living in Edina, Richfield, Bloomington and a portion of south Minneapolis are eligible to receive supplies through this program.”

Community members or area businesses can donate supplies or hold a supply drive. Items needed include backpacks, notebooks, folders, pencil pouches, pens and pencils, colored pencils, crayons and markers, highlighters, scissors, paper, rulers and glue. For more

information or to set up a supply drive, contact Children and Youth Services Program Manager Krista Phillips at kristap@veap.org. The Back to School Program will distribute supplies to students Aug. 18-23.

Contact VEAP at 952-888-9616 to volunteer, donate or get involved in other ways. Learn more at veap.org.



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Fall Hydrant Flushing Scheduled To Begin In September

By Krystal Caron

Twice a year, hydrants throughout the city are flushed. The first flush of the year happens in late April or early May and the second flush is scheduled to occur in September. This year, the fall flush is scheduled to begin Sept. 12.

“We flush hydrants to help remove some of the material that settles in the water mains and to get fresh water running through them. Over time, some of the solids will tend to settle out due to less use,” explained Public Works Coordinator Dave Goergen. “We also go through to check that all the hydrants and gate valves are operational. This ensures that when we need them for an emergency, they are there and working.”



Public Service Worker Nate Kaderlik flushes a hydrant on York Avenue during the routine spring hydrant flushing.

For all hydrants on the east side of Minnesota Highway 100, the fall flush will occur during the week of Sept. 12. For the hydrants located on the west side of Highway 100, the flush will occur during the week of Sept. 19.

Every hydrant in the city is flushed during the spring flush, but that isn't always the case for the fall flush. Due to the increased water usage during summer months, fewer flushes are needed in the fall. Increased warm weather usage leads to increased flow rates. This keeps minerals suspended in the water and moving through the system, instead of settling in water mains. An added benefit of limited flushes is conservation of resources – namely water, water treatment chemicals and electricity.

The decision on how many and which hydrants to flush is usually determined in late August. Goergen explained that the summer's precipitation also has an effect on how many hydrants are flushed.

“After a dry summer when we need to move a lot of water, we do a selective flush. But when it's a rainy year, we'll go ahead and do a full flush,” he said.

During the flush, some residents will receive rust-colored water that could stain laundry, but it is safe to drink. Because the water system is a “looped system,” red water may appear anywhere in Edina during either flush. Residents should check for signs of discoloration prior to washing clothes. If the water is discolored when the tap is turned on, simply run the water until it is clear. Residents who experience any rust stains in their laundry can pick

up RoVer Rust Remover stain remover free of charge from the City's Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility, 7450 Metro Blvd.

For more information, contact the Public Works Utilities Division at 952-826-0375.



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Get Outside And Active At Second ‘Open Streets On 50th’

By Jordan Gilgenbach

The City of Edina will close West 50th Street between Wooddale and Chowen avenues to vehicle traffic Sunday, Sept. 25, for the second “Open Streets on 50th” event.

Along with the 50th & France Business & Professional Association and Explore Edina, the City invites the community to get outside; be active and connect with neighbors, community groups and businesses from 1 to 5 p.m.

The street will be open to bicyclists and pedestrians to enjoy music, dance, games, arts, yoga and other creative

and active events. Civic, athletic, artistic and neighborhood groups, as well as businesses, will participate by hosting events, demonstrations, activities and more. Dogs are welcome at the event.

In its inaugural year in 2015, Open Streets on 50th saw an outstanding turnout, with estimated attendance close to 9,000. Given its success, organizers didn’t think twice about making it an annual event.

“This is a great community event to showcase all the different organizations, businesses and associations in the city,” said Recreation Supervisor Amanda Clarke, one of the event organizers. “There is a lot of community pride; it’s fun to see everyone out and enjoying Edina.”

“Open Streets on 50th was a special day last year. Visitors were able to experience the neighborhood in a different way with the street closed,” said Allison Matthews, Assistant Director of the 50th & France Business & Professional Association. “It was amazing to see such a great turnout for the first Open Streets on 50th. It shows what a strong community we have.”

Organizers are making this year’s event even better, shortening the route and condensing entertainment spaces.

“While we had an amazing turnout last year, we are making some changes we think will make this year’s event better,” Clarke said. “We’re hoping that participants and those attending this year’s event will enjoy the changes and help make the event an even bigger success.” This year’s route will be shortened by a few blocks. West 50th will close at Wooddale, and France Avenue will close



Photo by Jordan Gilgenbach

Players from the Edina Soccer Club play a game of soccer on 50th Street during the 2015 Open Streets on 50th.



Thousands attended the 2015 Open Streets on 50th. The City encourages residents to enjoy the streets again for the 2016 Open Streets on 50th, Sunday, Sept. 25.

between 51st Street and 49 ½ Street. These changes mean that the event route will be unimpeded by crossing vehicle traffic.

Open Streets on 50th will kick off with a family fun run along the route. Families and their children can race between Halifax Avenue and Wooddale just before 1 p.m. Pre-registration for kids is available, but day-of registration is also available. Adults will be able to run free with a paid child registration. At press time, the fee had not been determined.

“A run/walk is a great event for everyone to participate in to kick off this event,” said Recreation Supervisor Eric Boettcher, another member of the planning committee.

“This event is really about getting out and being active. What better way than for a family to do both together?”

There will be one stage with entertainment located near St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church on 50th just east of Wooddale.

“An event like this is exactly what makes neighborhoods great,” said Project Coordinator MJ Lamon, who oversees the City’s recognition of neighborhood associations. “It’s a perfect way to get to know your neighbors and your community even better.”

Open Streets also ties into the City’s Living Streets Policy, promoting healthy and active living. According to Mark Nolan, Transportation Planner for the City, Living Streets support multiple means of transportation and community identity, which leads to social interaction, enhanced neighborhood character and community pride.

“With Open Streets on 50th, residents can see the Living Streets Policy come to life with a lot of outdoor activity along a street normally busy with vehicle traffic,” Nolan said. “To see the streets used in such a way, for something other than driving, is really exciting.”

Nolan said that streets are for more than just cars. They can be a gathering place for community building – connecting neighbors to each other, not just to other places.

The City expects another big turnout in both the number of businesses and organizations present at the event, as well as attendance. Open Streets on 50th will be held rain or shine.

(continued on next page)

Sponsorship opportunities or booths may still be available. Businesses and organizations are encouraged to express their interest and apply online at EdinaMN.gov/OpenStreets.

For more information on Open Streets on 50th, visit EdinaMN.gov/OpenStreets.



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EXISTING PARKING RAMP

Planning Matters

Retail Center To Mirror Phoenix Plaza Development

Several years ago, the northwest corner of 70th Street and France Avenue was redeveloped with a new retail building. Now, the same developer wants to mirror that project with one of similar design.

DJR Architecture proposes tearing down the existing gas station at 3901 W. 70th St. and construct a new 8,030-square-foot retail development. The existing gas station was built in the mid-1960s, and contributes to traffic congestion issues, the developer explained in its narrative to the City.

The single-story building would complement Phoenix Plaza to the north, which includes a Vitamin Shoppe and an Ameritrade branch. The developer anticipates the two projects would create a gateway feeling for those entering and exiting the Southdale area from 70th Street.

The site would include pedestrian connections with a boulevard buffer, parking near the rear of the site



Submitted illustration

A developer proposes removing the existing gas station at 3901 W. 70th St. and building a new commercial building similar to the building to the north, creating a gateway feeling in the Southdale area.

and heavy landscaping to mask the parking from the neighboring multi-family housing.

The site is currently zoned Planned Commercial District 4 (PCD-4), which only allows automotive centers, car washes and gas stations. The developer has requested a rezoning of the site to Planned Unit Development (PUD). The developer has submitted its application and is awaiting Council approval.

New Apartments Proposed For Edina's West Side

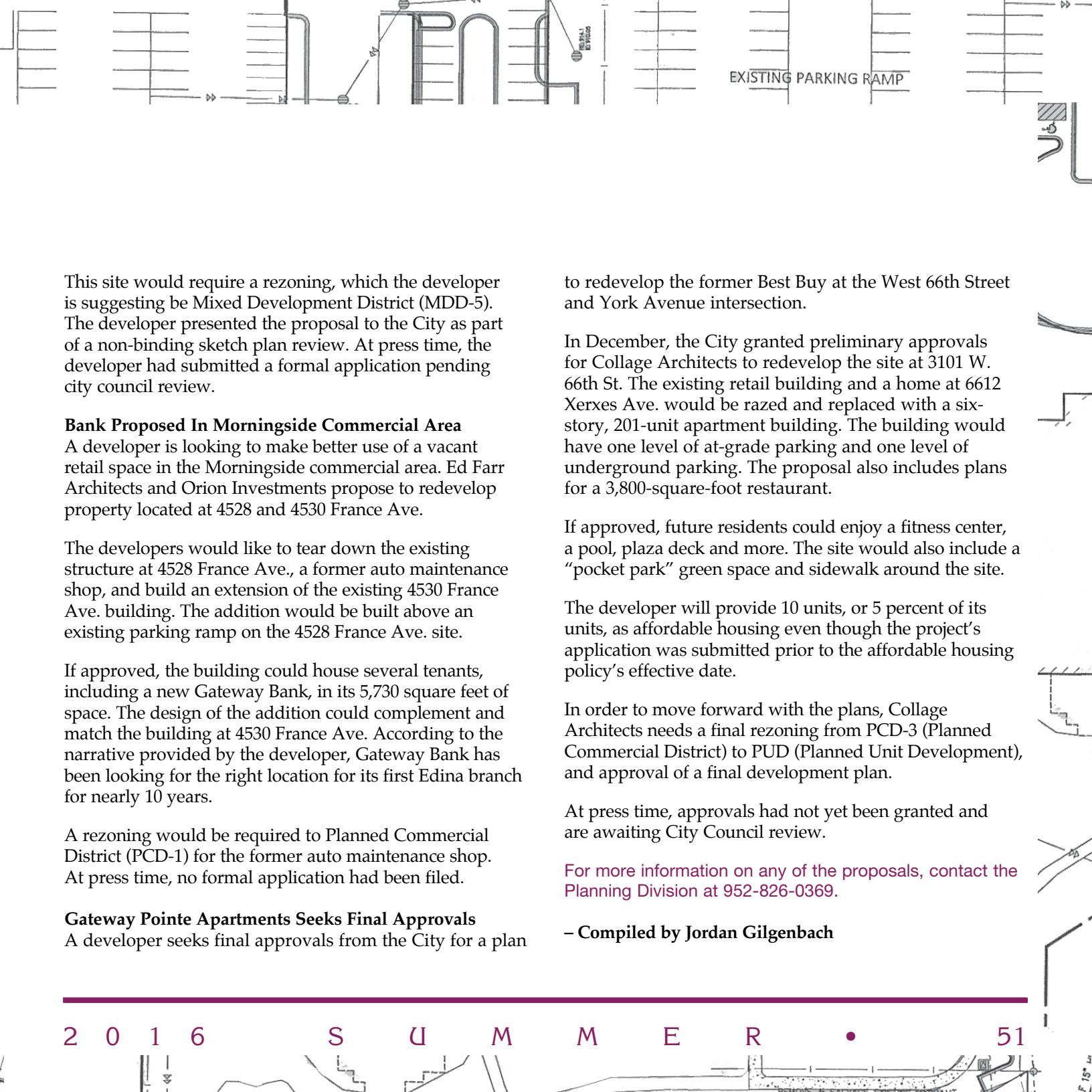
While many construction projects are under way in the Southdale area, one developer is placing bets on redeveloping a property on the west side of Edina.

Opus Development would like to redevelop the former United Health Group site at 5901 Lincoln Drive, next to Children's Hospital's administrative offices. In the proposal, an existing office building on the site would be removed and replaced with a four-story, 240- to 260-unit apartment building. Ten percent of the units could be designated as affordable in accordance with the City's affordable housing policy.

The development has easy highway access and close proximity to retail and the new Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail.

A new means of entry off Lincoln Drive would be created for access to Children's Hospital offices and another for the new apartments. The developer proposes one level of partially below-grade parking for the residents of the apartments.

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This site would require a rezoning, which the developer is suggesting be Mixed Development District (MDD-5). The developer presented the proposal to the City as part of a non-binding sketch plan review. At press time, the developer had submitted a formal application pending city council review.

Bank Proposed In Morningside Commercial Area

A developer is looking to make better use of a vacant retail space in the Morningside commercial area. Ed Farr Architects and Orion Investments propose to redevelop property located at 4528 and 4530 France Ave.

The developers would like to tear down the existing structure at 4528 France Ave., a former auto maintenance shop, and build an extension of the existing 4530 France Ave. building. The addition would be built above an existing parking ramp on the 4528 France Ave. site.

If approved, the building could house several tenants, including a new Gateway Bank, in its 5,730 square feet of space. The design of the addition could complement and match the building at 4530 France Ave. According to the narrative provided by the developer, Gateway Bank has been looking for the right location for its first Edina branch for nearly 10 years.

A rezoning would be required to Planned Commercial District (PCD-1) for the former auto maintenance shop. At press time, no formal application had been filed.

Gateway Pointe Apartments Seeks Final Approvals

A developer seeks final approvals from the City for a plan

to redevelop the former Best Buy at the West 66th Street and York Avenue intersection.

In December, the City granted preliminary approvals for Collage Architects to redevelop the site at 3101 W. 66th St. The existing retail building and a home at 6612 Xerxes Ave. would be razed and replaced with a six-story, 201-unit apartment building. The building would have one level of at-grade parking and one level of underground parking. The proposal also includes plans for a 3,800-square-foot restaurant.

If approved, future residents could enjoy a fitness center, a pool, plaza deck and more. The site would also include a “pocket park” green space and sidewalk around the site.

The developer will provide 10 units, or 5 percent of its units, as affordable housing even though the project’s application was submitted prior to the affordable housing policy’s effective date.

In order to move forward with the plans, Collage Architects needs a final rezoning from PCD-3 (Planned Commercial District) to PUD (Planned Unit Development), and approval of a final development plan.

At press time, approvals had not yet been granted and are awaiting City Council review.

For more information on any of the proposals, contact the Planning Division at 952-826-0369.

– Compiled by Jordan Gilgenbach

Business Notes

CareerPrep Site Launches In Edina

Two Edina residents recently launched CareerPrep, a firm focused on helping students find their way to great careers.

CareerPrep services include career assessments, individual career coaching, career exploration camps, internship search support, interview prep and job search strategy consulting.

"We are both passionate about helping students find the right career and land a great first job," said Sara Wegmann, who founded the company with Audra Emerson.

CareerPrep specializes in personal and professional development, working closely with students to identify their skills, interests, values and personality traits and then explore potential careers that will be a great fit for them. The co-founders believe thoughtful self-exploration ensures long-term career satisfaction and success. The goal is to help students find a career that best fits them, and help them land a great first job in that field.

"[We believe] having a meaningful job in their career field of choice at graduation can give young adults confidence, security and financial independence, and yet landing a great job right out of college is more challenging than ever."

For more information about CareerPrep and the services they offer, contact Wegmann at 612-564-9140 or info@careerprepsite.com.

Scout and Molly's Comes To Edina

Scout and Molly's, a boutique that sells unique clothing, jewelry and accessories, recently set up shop in the 50th & France area, at 4946 France Ave. S.



Lisa Kornstein, founder and Chief Operating Officer of Scout and Molly's, opened her first boutique in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 2002. Then, in 2007, she opened the second store in North Hills, North Carolina.

Although already franchising the name, Lisa didn't have the capital to take her brand to other parts of the country. The alliance and partnership with long-time franchise investors changed the picture. She also hired a store manager and a bookkeeper.

"I was able to be more productive by focusing on the business side of things, such as strategy and the operation side of the business," said Kornstein.

Scout and Molly's now has 20 locations in 10 states and over 20 boutiques "coming soon."

Scout and Molly's is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, contact Scout and Molly's at 612-564-0414 or edina@scoutandmollys.com.

Interact Club Of Edina Forms At Edina High School

The Interact Club of Edina has been chartered at Edina High School. The Rotary Clubs of Edina and Edina Morningside celebrated the milestone with the Interactors at the 111th anniversary of Rotary International.

On Feb. 23, 1905, Rotary founder Paul Harris formed one of the world's first service organizations, the Rotary Club of Chicago, as a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Since then, Rotary has continued its commitment to service by providing clean water, improving maternal health, awarding scholarships, fighting diseases, and improving lives around the world. Besides Rotary clubs, the international service organization includes Interact and Rotaract clubs for high school and college students, respectively.

"I couldn't think of a more fitting way to celebrate Rotary's anniversary than to celebrate our community's young people and the way they are coming together in service through Interact," said Rotary Club of Edina President Jennifer Bennerotte at the Charter Night celebration.

Interact is a club for young people ages 12 to 18 who want to join together to tackle issues in their community that they care most about. Every Interact Club carries out at least two service projects a year: one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding.

More than 50 Edina High School students are members of the Interact Club of Edina. They are: Aarathi Garimella, Abdulhi Faher, Andy Opp,

Casey Robinson,
Catherine Lee,
Elizabeth Anderson,
Emma Bontheis, Emily
Fan, Emma Simmons,
Eva Anderson, Gaelle ElKoreh, Gauri Madhok,
Harim J, Harry Arndt, Jack Keenan, Jack Lokowich,
Jade Schmeling, Jane Lim, Julia Nelson, Katie Bogart,
Kelly Jessen, Kristin Evans, Lauren Swenson, Lois Urban,
Maria Byun, Melissa Bernstein, Michelle Walkup, Minh
Tu, Mollie Mertes, Nadia Nik, Natalie Omodt, Ned Hall,
Ngawang Botang, Ofir Brizinov, Riley Christianson, Pema
Ihewa, Rozy Eastaugh, Sofia Garduno, Saumya Mangalick,
Ruchita Jain, Sarah Thommen, Stella Hadjiyanis, Sydney
Sabow, Tenzin Kunchok, Theo Madson, Tina Sletten and
Melina Sherwood.

Officers are President Elizabeth Anderson, Vice President Rozy Eastaugh, Secretary Harry Arndt, Treasurer Casey Robinson and At-Large Director Kelly Jessen. Rotarian advisors are Josh Sprague, Sam Thompson and Nate Wenner from the Rotary Club of Edina and Mary Lokowich and Paul Nelson from the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside.

For more information about the Interact Club of Edina, contact Sprague, josh@joshsprague.com.

– Compiled by Mia Vacanti



The Last Word



The public often hears about big City projects, but the vast majority of staff time is spent carrying out day-to-day work. In the summer, that takes on a whole different meaning, with seasonal hiring more than doubling the City's part-time staff and additional volunteers helping to make programs run smoothly. From Parks & Rec to Public Works, City departments ramp up their services for local residents.

Nowhere is this more evident than with the City's enterprise facilities. Seasonal and part-time hires across City departments total almost 400 employees who fill such roles as guest services, lifeguard, concessions, maintenance, street crew and program instructor. In a good year, approximately two-thirds are returning employees.

The Aquatic Center's seasonal staff of 90 takes on an intense 78-day season that includes close to 125,000 pool visits. Braemar Arena does not go dormant in the summer. The facility sells nearly as many ice hours in the summer as in the winter. And, parks and recreation programming jumps into full swing with over 45 programs and special events.

The change in seasons for Public Works means snow plows are removed from City trucks, which are then converted to hauling equipment for services such as street sweeping, asphalt overlay, pothole repair, concrete repair and athletic field maintenance. Seasonal employees hired in the Park Maintenance Division assist in mowing the hundreds of acres of athletic fields, parks and open spaces within the city limits to keep Edina looking clean and well-kept.

As spring turns into summer, the City's Engineering Department switches from design mode to construction mode. Summer also brings additional requests regarding traffic safety. Once the plows are tucked away, City staff can place counting tubes and other equipment in the roadways to measure speeds of traffic to keep up with data collection and analysis.

With nice weather and expanded daylight hours, extra patrol shifts for traffic enforcement, increased foot patrol in the 50th & France District and at Southdale Center, and additional officers on bikes in parks becomes the norm for the Edina Police Department.

In the summer, many people move in and out of their homes. The Finance Department's Utility Billing Division works hard behind the scenes to set up and close accounts for water and sewer service.

In election years such as this, over 300 election judges are hired and trained over the summer to serve at Edina's 20 polling locations.

Driving around this summer, you may notice beautiful flowers and plantings. These are brought to you by the Park Maintenance Division and the Edina Garden Club, together planting more than 130 gardens throughout the community. This year brings new plants – big leaf bronze-and-green leaf begonias – at the corner of 50th Street and Wooddale Avenue and Arneson Acres Park.

Enjoy the summer! City staff is geared up to make it a good one!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott H. Neal".

Scott H. Neal
City Manager




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